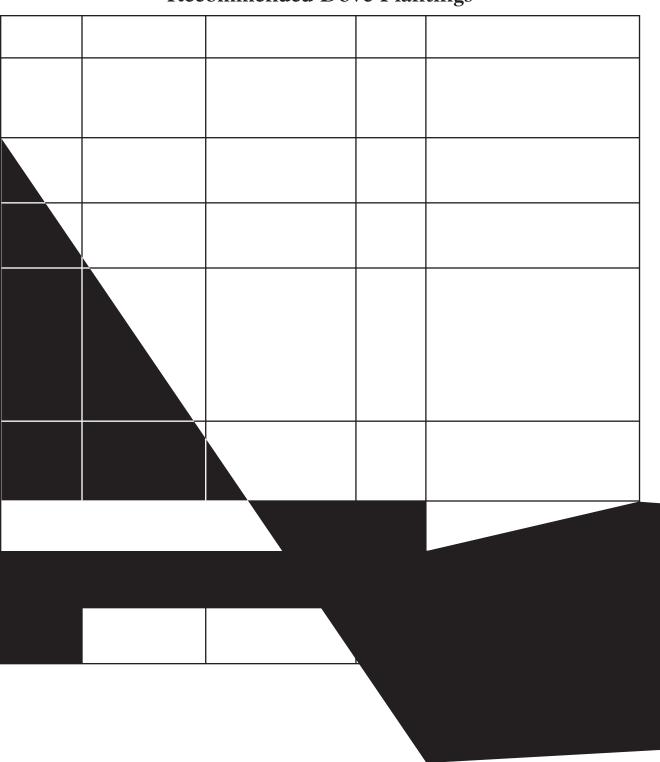
Planting and cultivating dove fields is a popular and successful technique used by sportsmen, landowners, and land managers to attract and concentrate doves. Careful planning is essential to producing a successful and legal dove field.

This brochure provides the legal guidelines for planting and managing dove fields in South Carolina. A successful dove field displays visible and tangible results in a relatively short period of time, benefits many species of wildlife, and may provide outstanding dove hunting opportunities. There are several important factors to be considered when planning a dove field:

- Choosing the appropriate crop
- Site selection
- Size, shape, and distribution of food plots
- Seeding rates
- Planting depth
- Maturation time
- Maintenance and management
- Cost and availability of plant materials
- Weed and insect control

For more information and recommendations on planting wildlife food plots, contact your local South Carolina Department of Natural Resources office or order a copy of the Clemson Extension Wildlife Planting Guide: Native Wildlife Plants in South Carolina from the website http://www.clemson.edu/public/.

Recommended Dove Plantings



Points to Remember

- Top-sowing, or broadcasting without covering the seed, is not considered a normal agricultural practice and is an illegal procedure for planting dove fields.
- Doves prefer to land in clear areas between rows. Keep these areas as weed free as possible by cultivating or using herbicides.
- Plan for at least a portion of the field to mature 2 weeks prior to shooting.
- Plan dove fields with a variety of plantings, providing for different maturation dates, in order to continue attracting doves through out the season. (Example: browntop millet, proso millet, and sunflowers)
- Scout fields several weeks in advance to determine use by doves.
- Too much shooting pressure will cause doves to move to other areas. Limit shooting to 1-2 days a week.
- Manipulating portions of the field by mowing, chopping, burning, or discing prior to hunting will help expose seeds and attract doves to the field.





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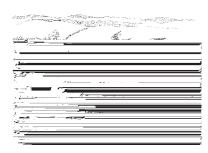
Department of Forest Resources Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

Billy Dukes

Wildlife Management Section South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

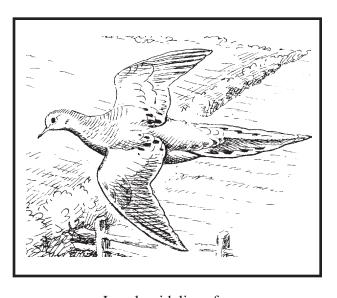
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Attracting Doves... Legally

South Carolina's Official Planting Guide for Dove Fields



Legal guidelines for planting and managing dove fields in South Carolina



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